

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending herein. By the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 8 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-8 would be allowed if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is overcome.

I. Objection to IDS

The March 18, 2002, Information Disclosure Statement is objected to because the references are not properly identified. The attached Information Disclosure Statement provides correct identification of the references.

II. Rejection Under §112

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The claims are objected to because the phrase "and have a structure shown by C_xF_y " is allegedly unclear as failing to define x and y. Applicants submit that the phrase is not unclear, and would be readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to mean that the carbon structure is fluorinated, i.e., having both carbon atoms and fluorine atoms. For clarity, the phrase is deleted from the claim, which still recites that "the exposed edges of the hexagonal carbon layers are fluorinated." Accordingly, the scope of the claims is unchanged, although the language is clarified.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected because the phrases "in part" and "at least in part" in claims 7 and 8 are allegedly unclear.

The phrases in claims 7 and 8 are intended to specify that at least part, but not necessarily all, of the carbon fiber in the respective active material for a battery and solid lubricant comprise the fluorinated carbon fiber as defined in claim 1. The active material for

a battery and solid lubricant could also include other forms of carbon fiber. In the interest of advancing prosecution, the objected-to phrases are deleted from the claims.

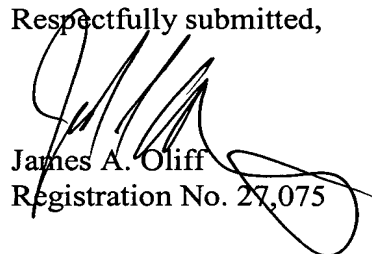
For at least these reasons, claims 1-8 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA

Date: June 17, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--